

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03583 220918Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9713

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3583

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY ON SECURITY SITUATION

1. JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY ABBAS KHALAF, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CONTROL COMMISSION UNDER PRIMIN RACHID KARAME TO SUPERVISE THE CEASEFIRE, INFORMED EMBOFF APRIL 21 THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. HE HAD JUST RETURN FROM MEETING, AT WHICH ALL FACTIONS WERE REPRESENTED INCLUDING SOMEONE FROM CHAMOUN'S PARTY. THE JOB WAS DIFFICULT AND THERE WERE STILL MANY VIOLATIONS. HOWEVER, SUFFICIENT SECURITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN BEIRUT TO ALLOW FOR THE ELECTIONS. WHEN QUESTIONED SPECIFICALLY, KHALAF SAID THE REJECTIONISTS WILL GO ALONG WITH THE CEASEFIRE.

2. REGARDING SECURITY PROBLEMS FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS, KHALAF THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED ONCE THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS ELECTED. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS A STRONG MAN AND HAD OVERWHELMING SUPPORT, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR ESECURITY BY MEANS AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRY.

3. IF THE SYRIANS ARE ANNOYED WITH US FOR WARNING AGAINST THE DANGER OF BRINGING TOO MANY SYRIAN TROOPS INTO LEBANON, JUMBLATT IS APPARENTLY ANNOYED WITH US FOR WHAT HUALLEGES TO BE OUR COOPERATION WITH THE SYRIANS IN TOLERATING THE ENTRY INTO LEBANON OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF SYRIAN FORCES.

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RM REGARDING CURRENT FORCES IN LEBANON, KHALAF MADE IT CLEAR

THAT THE PLA WAU NOW FUNCTIONING UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF THE
SYRIANS AND WAS QUITE SEPARATE FROM ARAFAT.
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